



Alumni Newsletter

by Dave Burdett, Director of Alumni Relations

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www.WoodcrestChristian.org

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Woodcrest's twenty second graduation was held at Harvest on June 13, and a record 81 graduates were added to the ranks of WCS alumni. If you were part of the class of 2004, congratulations and welcome to the WCS Alumni Association!

Campus news

With the changes in admission procedure enacted by the UC system, WCS has chosen to seek WASC accreditation. We had our initial visit in March, and we very pleased to hear back that we have received full accreditation from this agency. Our six-year term of accreditation from ACSI is expiring next year, and we are preparing to renew that jointly with WASC. We will have the visiting committee on campus next April. Writing the self study and the other preparations are stressful



The new classroom building behind will open in the fall, but students got to use the lunch shelter to stay out of the sun.

and demanding, so please be in prayer for this important process over the next nine months.

After all the campus construction of the last year, things are really starting to take shape. The **BUILDING UPON THE ROCK** campaign has been a huge success. We have had the new lunch shelter in use since spring break, the baseball teams were able to play a good number of games on their new field—they even got in a couple night games—and we were even able to use a room in the new middle school building for several high school finals. Since school let out, teachers have begun moving into their new



Bleachers await fans beside the new track and soccer stadium. In the background stands the new shop and bus facility.

rooms: it's going to be an exciting opening to school in the fall! We have scheduled a dedication of our new facilities for September 1 at 6:00 p.m. If you are available, we'd love to have you celebrate with us. In May, a special dinner was held celebrating the faithfulness of God and our donors who contributed to Phase II! After a bit of a breather, we look forward to implementing later phases.



The science lab in the new high school classroom building will be home to Mrs. Sullivan and the chemistry classes. It offers them a marvelous facility for their studies!



With homes slated to go in soon, the decision was made to move the field lighting to phase one, and baseball was able to play several games under the lights.

For the second year in a row, all our teachers are returning. Mr. Peters has enlisted Scott Ritsema for the faculty, as we add a fourth eleventh grade homeroom in the fall. We are saying goodbye to long-time Director of Finance Greg Busbee (1988). Scott Reynolds (1992), another WCS alum, has been hired as the WCSS Accountant. In other staff news, Mr. Shane Ludwig, who teaches math and physics, took a bride on February seventh. On a sadder note, please be in prayer for Jeff Grandia, a Woodcrest alumnus who has worked as a custodian on campus for many years. He was seriously injured in a fall and was in intensive care for several weeks. In even more tragic news, alumni parent, Mr. Jay Moss, was killed in a dune buggy accident on March twelfth. Pray for God's consolation and comfort for his son Jayson (2001), his daughter Jaymi (2004), and his wife Laura.



After their wedding, Mr. & Mrs. Shane Ludwig stopped for a quick photo

Athletics

WCS athletes finished the year the way they began it. In fact, nine of the twelve varsity teams from Woodcrest finished in first place in the Big Sky League. All basketball teams came through their league play unscathed! Then in the spring, baseball, softball, and golf teams all captured their league titles! Not only did the Golf team take the crown, but senior golfer Cody Schumacher was the first Woodcrest athlete to be league champion in that sport. Both baseball and softball teams had great runs in the CIF play-offs: softball made it to the semi-finals and baseball to the finals! We even had the beginnings of a girls swim team. Ashtyn Douglas and Natalie Royer represented Woodcrest in the water and both placed highly in CIF play-off competition. This only sets the stage for a full girls swim team next spring.

Drama

Mrs. Boykin led her thespians to another successful year on the stage. The spring play, *The Mouse That Roared*, had audiences doubled in laughter. Seniors Jeanette Ayotte and Joel Finley ended their WCS drama careers in the lead roles of this stage adaptation of Leon Wibberly's book. Next year, drama is sponsoring a trip to see *Les Miserables* in December. Then, on the 3-4 and 10-11 of December, the WCS Drama Club will stage the fall play, *It's a Wonderful Life!*

Upcoming dates

Keep an eye on the school web www.WoodcrestChristian.org. In addition to the September first dedication, please note that the golf tournament will be held on October 27. This year's event will be something different. In the morning everyone within the school system will participate in a Walk-a-thon. After we all have lunch together, the golfers will take to the course. Finally, be aware that Homecoming has been scheduled for February 5, 2005. I'd love to see you there if you can make it.

If you are upgrading your computer either at home or work and no longer need your old one, please consider donating it to the school. There always seems to be a need for additional computing resources. The minimum configuration we can use right now is a Pentium II-350 or better, preferably a machine that can run Windows XP. In return, you will receive a gift receipt for tax purposes. Please contact me if you think you might be able to help.

Alumni News

1979

"In October 2003," writes **Kathy (Brazil) Guthrie**, "I became a full time staff member at Crossroads Christian Church in Corona. I am in the Children's ministry department and am the elementary coordinator." June marked a triple graduation for her sons: Christopher graduated from Santiago High School, Devin from eighth grade, and Sean from sixth grade! Kathy's youngest, Katilynn, will be a third grader. In his time remaining in the Navy, **Gregg Anderson** looks to finish his B.S. in Religion from Liberty University. Then he plans to join Capitol Ministries as they minister to state legislators, staffers, and lobbyists. In the mean time, he continues as the Youth Pastor of his church. Besides assisting him in that role, his wife **Cori (Almand) Anderson** (1980) does medical transcription and child care in their home. Their oldest, Amy, graduated first in her class from Virginia Wesleyan College and is seeking a position in marketing for a non-profit organization. Next in line, Aris, her husband, JJ, and their two boys, Jonas (2) and Isaak (1), live in Idaho where Aris and JJ are helping with a church plant. Their daughter, Ashlie, is attending Nazarene University on a partial softball scholarship, and sports also keeps the younger two occupied: Garrett (14) loves baseball, and Audrey (12) plays volleyball, basketball, and soccer.

1980

On August 28th, the Class of 1980 is having an informal get-together at the

home of Sammee (Jones) VanArsdale in Carsbad, CA. If you want to get in on things, contact her at (760) 942-5323 or nocountymom@adelphia.net. Teaching martial arts remains the focus for **Kim (Asbell) Savage**, and she has three studios in towns near her. In addition, she also works for a local vet, and is working towards her Masters degree in counseling therapy!

1983

Randy Blacketer and his wife had their third child, Katelyn Wynne Blacketer on April 7, 2004. She joins older siblings Ryan and Alexandra.



Katelyn Wynne Blacketer kept her mom up all night before arriving at 3:30 a.m.

1984

After leaving California in 1997, and spending six years in Iowa, **Jeanette (Stripling) Ponsford** has now settled in Kentucky just outside of Cincinnati, Ohio. She really depends on the Lord's faithfulness as she teaches on a secular college campus. Her husband, Paul, is a market research analyst. The couple has two children, Spenser (7) and Justin (6). **Kristie (Miller) Moss** and her husband Kevin were married last New Year's Eve

and shortly after that embarked on a perilous journey east to live in North Carolina: with everything packed in a truck and trailer, they braved malfunctioning tail lights, tarp and tire problems, and winter weather. "At one point a car came from the westbound side, flew across the median and headed right for us," Kristie wrote, "but God's hand took hold of that car and turned it away from us at the last moment and it came to rest in the grass." In the middle of the night, but just a few miles from their home, the trailer jack-knifed on the icy road and nearly forced the truck into a ditch. Relatives came and rescued them, and they finally made it. Then there was the challenge of getting settled in a 4-bedroom home on 6 acres: "between the two of us we have 8 kids, three dogs and one cat!" Housing is not the only issue, for they had to buy a 15 passenger



Trailer trouble on the long trip east made it a challenge, but finally everyone was united. At home in North Carolina were Kristie, her husband, and all eight children.



Chevy Express to get everybody around.

1985

Your prayers for the safety of **Karin (Carter) Hoggard's** husband Kevin as he served in the Middle East have been answered: he is back doing search and rescue and firefighting missions as a flight medic for the Oregon National Guard. Karin left teaching several years ago and is now working as an office manager at her church. Kymberlin (11) likes singing and drama in middle school and Kamrie (almost 8) just finished second grade. "I'm in the Navy and have been since 86," writes submariner **Chris Jensen**. He was stationed on the USS Baton Rouge in Norfolk, VA for four years and then served on the USS Hartford for eight years in Groton, CT. During his eight years there, he earned a BS in Engineering Technology from the University of Connecticut. Chris is married to "a wonderful and supportive wife named Holly" and has a ten-year-old son named Garrett.

1986

Perhaps the newest addition to the growing WCS alumni family is Madison Raylene Hansma, born June 25, 2004 (a tad early) to **Sarah (Moore) Hansma** and her husband Joel. Big sister Mackenzie claimed credit for making the announcement. After earning his BA in Business Management recently, **Daniel Robbins** is planning to go on for a Master's in Education. "I hope to begin substituting in a public high school or trying for a full-time position in a private school teaching English



Madison Hansma arrived just in time to get her birth announcement into this newsletter.

very soon," he says. Daniel and his wife have a new little one in the house as well as an older son.

1987

Tim Franklin's time in the Secret Service came to an end when the Air Force recalled him to serve in the Middle East conflict. Now a Major, Tim should finish his commitment soon and return to California. From there he will be flying all over the world servicing contracts for his security consulting firm called "Franklin and Hammond, Inc."

1988

After teaching elementary school for seven years after she finished college, **Christy (Barfoot) Balentine** is overjoyed to be a stay-at-home mom for her children, Jonathan (3) and Grace (1). Almost two years ago, her husband, Stephen, moved from Youth Pastor to Senior Pastor at their church, San Gabriel Union Church.

1989

Helena Rouhe wrote to say that she just received her second Master's Degree. "Both are in Psychology, the first in Cognitive psychology, with an emphasis in how people perceive their environment. The second is in Marriage and Family Therapy. Both degrees work well together and I really enjoy helping people working through their problems." Now living in Orange County, Helena spoke of wedding plans for the fall. Last September 5, **Noelle Jeannequin** married Dr. Greg Bigley, a professor at the University of Washington. They share their home with two basset hounds, Fletcher B. and Jake, and have beautiful views of Lake Washington and Mt. Ranier. After receiving her BA in Business and Management, Noelle worked 12 ½ years for the Walt Disney Company, but now a change in career has taken her to Culinary School, and she just loves it.



Corey Hansen became the latest WCS alum to "graduate" to glory. He succumbed to cancer.



At age one, Ethan Jimenez is walking and getting into everything he can. Soon he's going to be a big brother.

1990

News of **Corey Hansen's** death put a damper on end of the year excitement. As you remember, Corey won a battle with cancer in the eighth grade, but lost part of his leg in the process. During the spring, Corey collapsed and was found to have several severe brain tumors. Less than a month later, on May 26, 2004, he passed into eternity. His family would appreciate your prayers. As her son Ethan has notched his first year, **Liz Madrigal-Jimenez** is preparing for the arrival of her second, a boy to whom she has given the name Lucas Skyler. He should make his appearance just as you are reading this newsletter.



Gerry Moore sent along this photo just to let me know he was still alive and well.

1991

With an AA, an AS, and a Certificate of Completion from the Interpreters Training Program in American Sign Language, **Kris (Anderson) Vela** graduated from RCC on June 10, 2004. **Rick Pepper** became Corinne (Dotson) McInteer's brother-in-law when he married Heather McInteer on February 7, 2004. Rick and Heather had known each other during their high school senior years from church youth group. They had not seen each other in twelve years, however, until they agreed to let Corinne reintroduce them. Since their wedding, the couple lives in San Diego, where Rick is going on his 14th year at Jack in the Box, Inc. He is currently the Merchandising/Marketing Manager for their convenience store & fuel division, known as "Quick Stuff."



Rick Pepper and Heather McInteer we married the week before Valentine's Day.

1993

It's a boy this time for **Aaron Wyant** and his wife: **Matthew Isaiah** was born on Valentine's Day this year and joins older sister Becca in the family. Also on the baby front, **Bill Watson**

reported that he and his wife are expecting their first in November.



Matthew Isaiah Wyant seems "gift-wrapped" as the doctor presents him to Aaron and his wife.

1994

Alicia (Dufour) Gifford continues to be active in drama and will have leading roles in two productions staged through the Ramona Pageant Association: *South Pacific* and Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*. (Information about performances can be found at <http://www.ramonabowl.com/events/all.shtml>.) Her husband's band, "The Seakers" will be releasing their CD soon. "It doesn't seem like it could be ten years since I was last there at Woodcrest," wrote **Ben Crousore**. Though in a wheel chair from his accident in 1996, Ben is healthy and active. He attends a Foursquare church called Victory Fellowship and ministers in the local jail with them. In addition, he serves on the Board of Directors for a non-profit organization called "The Resource Center for Independent Living" which provides services to persons with disabilities in central and northeastern Kansas. Ben is finishing his degree in Counselor Education and Rehabilitation at Emporia State University in Kansas and will then



Standing on the left without a hat, Kris Huff is one of several WCS alums serving in the military in Iraq.

pursue a Masters in the ministry field with plans to do work in prison ministry.

1995

You might remember him as **Brad Garcia**, but it's actually Brad Smith. He's been working as a Firefighter/Medic since 1998, and in Houston since 2001. Brad is eagerly anticipating returning to California next summer, however.

1996

Khara Betz graduated from from Cal State San Bernardino this spring with an MA in Communication Studies. She has been doing marketing and publicity for a company in Yucaipa and teaching Public Speaking part time at community college level. Also graduating was **Rob Ekberg**. He received his Bachelors in Business Administration from Cal Baptist in May. **David Roberts** wrote from South Korea where he's been for almost a year. He lives in the city of Yeosu, located at the extreme southern end of the peninsula. David is there to teach ESL, but is also working on his Korean. Besides his actual teaching responsibilities, he leads an English Bible study. Hopefully he'll have his

website up soon, so we can see what's going on. Several options remain open for the future: grad school at Moody in Chicago, teaching in Taiwan, or working with the Phillip Hayden Foundation in China. David said he had heard from **Jason Clay** that he'd completed his CFI (certified flight instructor) license in Oklahoma in January, and is now ready to teach others to fly. Grandpa Terry Huff again let me know what's going on with his crew. This time reported that his grandson **Kris Huff**, who is a Sergeant in the Marine Corp Reserves, was activated and sent to Iraq. Prayer for his safety in that tumultuous part of the world would be appreciated: recently, his outfit was shelled with mortars during the night. Pray, too, for Mr. Huff's nephew who was severely injured when the truck he was riding in was hit by a roadside bomb. In an e-mail update from **Deanna (Pazmino) Janssens**, she spoke of her career as an Underwriter/Loan Processor with Bank of America and of the new home she and husband just purchased. **Julia (Delsindico) Lohr** shared the good news about the birth of her second child, Ashley Christine, on November 25, 2003. (She was thankful that she left her job as a cashier/manager at Ralphs before the disruptive grocery strike.) With a promotion for her husband, Allen, Julia has been able to stay home with the new baby and her son Christian, born in 2001. Besides being involved in a mom's group and a couple Bible studies, she sells Pampered Chef products from her home.

1997

After graduating from UCR with a major in Psychology in 2002, **Jennifer So** began work at Loma Linda University in the PsyD Clinical Psychology program. "It's really busy and LOTS OF READING, but I really enjoy it," writes Jennifer.



Alysse Whaley looks like she's got her hands full with her new little brother Jaden.

1998

It's a boy this time for **Jeremy** and **Amanda (Difani) Whaley**. Baby Jaden arrived on the scene on March 30 and joins his older sister Alysse in the family. (Amanda was excited to report that it was a very easy birth.) Jeremy continues to work at the Claremont Colleges. In May, **Kristin Camden** earned her Bachelors in Liberal Studies from CBU. In his note mentioned earlier, David Roberts let me know that his brother **Danny Roberts** was in his first year at Hastings Law School in San Francisco. Danny said that he's run across **Kathryn Kaufman's** ('97) name on class lists a couple of times, though he hasn't actually seen her yet.



Sarah Musser celebrates her graduation from CBU with a party at her grandmother's house.

1999

Lots of graduation news for the class of 1999. **Kristen Blades** and **Sarah Musser** received their Bachelors in Business Administration, while **Melodie Rendle** earned her degree in Liberal Studies, all from California Baptist. At Biola, **Alyssa Musich** graduated with a Bachelors in Nursing (and a minor in Bible). She'll be taking her nursing boards soon and will be working with oncology and hematology patients in the pediatrics ward at Loma Linda University Medical Center. Finally, **Christie Johnson** graduated from UC Riverside in English and is looking for a graduate program.

Please be on the lookout for an Alumni Survey which you should receive sometime in July. If you would take the time to fill it out and return it to me, it will help us with the self study we are doing as part of the accreditation process.

2000

Plenty of college commencements took place for members of the class of 2000. At CBU, **Jeremy Pool** received his degree in Communication Arts. Over at UCR, **Arika Johnson** graduated *cum laude* in Psychology. She will be continuing her education in a doctoral program at Loma Linda University, and is currently working with autistic children as a therapist. Graduating from UCR, too, was **Steven Boyd**, who finished his engineering degree a quarter early. Staying in the family, his brother **Jeff Boyd** finished at UCSD with a Cognitive Science major. Also at UCSD, **Lisa Keagy** finished two quarters early and received her Bachelors at the end of January. She majored in Psychology, and had a minor in Law and Society. She planned to take some time off to decide whether she wanted to do grad school or law school. Lisa passed along some news on a couple former Woodcresters. **Jason**



Arika Johnson has finished at UCR and is moving on Loma Linda University.

Davis got married a couple years ago, and he and his wife both joined the army. Pray for him, as recently he has been serving in Mosul, Iraq. Lisa also mentioned that **Dean Schulz** and his wife had a baby boy they named Elliott. In Los Angeles, **Dylan Letrich** returned from his time in Greece to graduate from USC with a degree in Philosophy. It looks like law school is ahead for him. Up at Simpson College, **Jessica Hoggard** earned her Bachelors in Psychology with a minor in Bible & Theology. All way over on the other coast, **Natalie Perez** was awarded her degree from the University of Miami, School of Business Administration, while in December **Amanda Ackerman** graduated from University of Maryland, College Park with a degree Physiology and Neurobiology. It looks like Amanda will have an article about a population genetics project she worked on with her boss published in the journal *Genetics*. She plans to attend UC Berkely in fall to work on masters of public health in infectious diseases on the way to becoming a microbiologist. Finally, **Ben Woo** wrote that he'd just about finished his Bachelor of Arts degree at Queen's (in Canada, of course) and he expected to earn a first class honors. Over the past year, Ben worked as a teaching assistant in the Dept. of Film Studies, running a tutorial section and doing the marking for a group of first year film students. "It was a really good experience that confirmed my impulse to stay in the academy and eventually teach." He also worked as the editorial cartoonist for the school paper and did a weekly

comic strip, which looks like it has migrated to his web-site www.borealism.com. In the fall, Ben will be starting an MA at the School of Communication at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia. His proposed research topic is to examine the representations of identity in Canadian comic books. For this he's been awarded a Canada Graduate Scholarship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. ("The government is giving me money to read comics!") This summer, he'll travel to San Diego to be on a panel and present a smaller scale version of his thesis at the Comic Arts Conference: he is attempting to apply the apparatus theory paradigm from film studies — "though I tended towards the semiotic end of that paradigm, rather than the psychoanalytic" — to comic books. Ben is also getting involved in the New Democratic Party of Canada as the election looms there. **Stephanie (Emslie) Cameron** wrote to say that she is currently working for Temple Baptist Church and Christian School. She is now the church secretary, but earlier had filled in for the sixth grade teacher who was off on maternity leave. She also mentioned that she was working on a second vocal CD. (She finished her first in July 2002.) After working in the slums of Sri Lanka for two months in 2002, **Nathan Malone** will be spending 17 days on mission trip in Taiwan teaching English this summer. David Roberts let me know that his sister, **Laura Roberts**, has another year left at Cal Poly, Pomona, where she and Heidi Lance, an old friend from RCDS, share an apartment.



Lt. Mark Baur (USMC) and his new bride Mara (England) cut their cake with his sword.

2001

Ashton Ellis graduated from Baylor University and is already doing grad work as well as working in Congressman Calvert's office. **Mara England** married Matt Baur on June 27, 2004. They are spending the first few months of marriage together in Pensacola, while Matt, a Lieutenant in the Marines finishes ground school, and then they will be stationed in Corpus Christi, Texas. Although international missions had been intimidating for **Carly Payne**, she will travel to Uganda, "The Pearl of Africa," this summer. While there with SOS, Sufficiency of Scriptures Ministries, Carly will do humanitarian aid and biblical training, lead youth Bible camps, work at orphanages, and do evangelism in villages. On a similar note, **Kirstin Robison** is working in a summer "camp" in Bangkok before taking training in dental hygiene at Loma Linda. Her Music Therapy studies are keeping **Meredith White** busy, even moreso if she decides to add an additional major and minor. She hopes to graduate next spring, serve a six-month internship, and then pass her board certification test. Then she can move on to her real goal—using these skills to work with children who are burn victims. **Adam Ruis** became another WCS grad

serving in the Middle East as he shipped out to Iraq during the spring. With two quarters left to go before earning her B.S. in Biochemistry from UCR, **Vanessa Williams** will be spending the summer serving an internship at Pfizer Labs in LaJolla where she will be working in a medicinal chemistry lab and doing research on Oncology. (This follows last summer's Pfizer organic chemistry research fellowship at UCR.) After she graduates, Vanessa would like to aim for a PhD in organic chemistry at the Scripps Research Institute. **Crystal Azar** wrote to share a couple items: first she's been accepted to RCC's Registered Nursing Program, and second she's become engaged to Art Vela. They are looking to a wedding in January, 2006.

2003

Joe Villescas-Carrasco wanted to let all those in the class of 2003 know that he had set up web-site. It's available at www.geocities.com/woodcrestchristian2003, or you can just follow the link on the Class of 2003 page on the WCS web-site. Newlywed **Darlene (Sandoval) Byrne** wrote to say that her husband Michael graduated from boot camp in March. The couple is currently in San Angelo, TX, where Michael is in Fire Protection Training at Goodfellow AFB. They'll head to his first permanent duty station at RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk, England, sometime in mid-July. Darlene has heard there are college opportunities on base and is looking forward to moving ahead with her education. Also going abroad is **Trent Robison** who will be spending the next year teaching second grade on Majuro Island in the South Pacific.